

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR DON KNABE

December 18, 2012

Over the past several years Los Angeles County has seen a significant increase in the number of sexually trafficked youth. Sadly, this County is recognized as one of the major hubs for sex trafficking in the State and Nation.

It is sickening to me that minors in this country – some as young as 12 years old - are forcibly coerced and manipulated into selling their bodies for the benefit of their pimps. Untold numbers of these children fall victim to predatory adults who sexually exploit them for commercial gain, and who very often abuse these minors in unspeakably brutal ways. These children often are arrested for prostitution and go through the juvenile justice system with little opportunity for rehabilitation and healing that is specific to their needs. We must shine a light on this travesty by helping these children heal and keeping other children away from this. We also must bring those individuals responsible for their abuse and exploitation to justice.

After more than a year of intense effort, we are seeing tremendous progress in addressing this horrific problem, thanks to the immense efforts of law enforcement, the Probation Department, the Department of Children and Family Services, as well as our community partners. But we must continue to shine a light on this and continue to work aggressively to end human trafficking, and child sex trafficking in particular.

**(MORE)**

MOTION

MOLINA \_\_\_\_\_

YAROSLAVSKY \_\_\_\_\_

KNABE \_\_\_\_\_

ANTONOVICH \_\_\_\_\_

RIDLEY-THOMAS \_\_\_\_\_

**I THEREFORE MOVE that** the Board of Supervisors declares January to be National Human Trafficking Awareness Month in Los Angeles County.

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